(c) The quantum of coal envisaged to be exported will not affect the supply of coal to the Power sector in the country.

Weight shortage in steam coal

1494. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the working group of coal, Coke Consumer Association about financial loss to small scale industry due to weight shortage in steam coal wagons;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to fix the accountability of the guilty for weight shortage; and

(c) whether Government propose to ask the Coal India Limited to determine the actual weight of coal loaded in wagons so that the Railways can be made accountable for shortage on transit?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A representation has been submitted by the Working Group of Coal/Coke Consumers' Assoication, a private body, regarding weight shortage in coal carried by Railway wagons. Sale of coal is on F.O.R. Colliery basis. Therefore coal companies are not in a position to check alleged en-route pilferage of coal resulting in lesser coal reaching the consumers. However, they are tightening the arrangements regarding weighment at the time of loading of coal. All out efforts are being made by coal companies to ensure maximum serviceability of weighbridges, and full utilisation/use of the available weighbridges so that as much weighment as possible is done of the rail borne coal. Consumers can also post their representatives to inspect loading and weighment of coal at the loading/weighment points.

Export of produced softwares

1495. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scope for exporting softwares produced indigenously by Techno Engineering designs computers;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to promote and encourage software producers; and

(c) what export performance of software industries has been during the past year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have taken a series of measures to promote software exports:

(i) A policy was announced in December, 1986 for integrated development of software for domestic and export market;

(ii) Government have exempted the earnings from software export from income tax under the section 80 HHE and it is initially valid till financial year 1992-93;

(iii) With liberalisation of industrial policy, the condition of 40 per cent foreign equity for software development in domestic area has been relaxed upto 51 per cent. Now companies having foreign equity upto 51 per cent are being permitted for software development in domestic area;

(iv) To give further boost to software export, the Department of Electronics have launched a scheme called Software Technology

Park (STP). STP is a 100 per cent export oriented scheme for development and export of software using data communication link or in the form of physical export. This also acts as 100 per cent export oriented resource centre for software export units. Under this scheme, the companies can set up their own units. Department of Electronics through Software Technology Park of India, an autonomous registered society has also set up STPs at Pune, Bhubaneshwar Bangalore, Hyderabad, Gandhinagar, Noida and Thiruvananthapuram to provide infrastructure support in terms of communication, core computers and built-up space.

(v) Department of Electronics has launched a project with assistance from the World Bank to study the international software scenario with an objective to identify market globally and to recommend strategies to address these markets.

(c) Software Export during 1991 has been Rs. 330 crores.

Extradition of LTTE terrorists

@1496. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sri Lankan Government have been approached for the extradition of L.T.T.E. terrorists who have been chargesheeted in the murder case of Late Rajiv Gandhi; and

(b) if so, whether the request was made in time and what was the reaction of Sri Lankan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The matter of approaching the Sri Lankan Government with a formal request for the extradition of the L.T.T.E. terrorists who have been chargesheeted in the case of assassination of former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, is under Government's active consideration.

Closure of social departments of U.N.O.

1497. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state Government's reaction on the closure of Social Departments of the U.N.O.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): On 1st March, 1992 UNSG consolidated the functions and mandates of the Office of the Director General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, the UN Centre on Transnational Corporation and the Centre for Science and Technology Development. The Government of India have followed these developments closely and hope that they will not adversely affect the UN's commitment in the field of economic and social development, particularly of developing countries.

Assaults on Indian Diplomats abroad

1498. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of assaults on Indian diplomats and embassy officials abroad during the last three years; and

(b) the details of each such incidence and action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) There were seven cases of asaults on Indian Diplomats and officials during the past three years.

@Previously Unstarred Question 661, transferred from 15th July, 1992.